Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People.™

Multistate Outbreak of Listeriosis Linked to Imported Frescolina Marte Brand Ricotta Salata Cheese (Final Update)

Posted November 21, 2012 2:30 PM ET

This outbreak appears to be over. *Listeria monocytogenes* infection (listeriosis) is an important cause of illness in the United States. More information about listeriosis, and steps people can take to reduce their risk of infection, can be found on the CDC *Listeria* Web Page (/listeria/).

At a Glance:

- **Case Count: 22 (/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/epi.html)**
- **States: 14 (/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/map.html)**
- **Deaths: 4**
- **Hospitalizations: 20**
- **Recall: Yes (/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/advice-consumers.html)**

More Information:

- Recall & Advice to Consumers (/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/advice-consumers.html)
- Signs & Symptoms (/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/signs-symptoms.html)
- Key Resources (/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/key-resources.html)

Highlights

- **Read the Advice to Consumers & Cheese Retailers» (/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/advice-consumers.html)**
- A total of 22 persons infected with the outbreak-associated strain of *Listeria monocytogenes* were reported from 13 states and the District of Columbia.
  - 20 ill persons were hospitalized. Four deaths were reported. Public health officials determined that two of these deaths were related to listeriosis. One fetal loss was reported.
- Collaborative investigation efforts of local, state, and federal public health and regulatory agencies indicated that Frescolina Marte brand ricotta salata cheese imported from Italy and distributed by Forever Cheese, Inc. was the likely source of this outbreak.
  - On September 10, 2012, Forever Cheese, Inc. initiated a voluntary recall of this cheese (http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/CORENetwork/ucm319197.htm) (http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html) with a single lot number and/or production code.
  - On September 13, 2012, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration placed the exporter of the recalled cheese, Fattorie Chiarappa S.R.L. of Conversano, Italy, on Import Alert (http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/CMS_IA/importalert_9.html) (http://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html). This means that Fattorie Chiarappa cheese will be denied admission into the United States unless the importer shows that the cheese product is not contaminated with *Listeria*.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT 01

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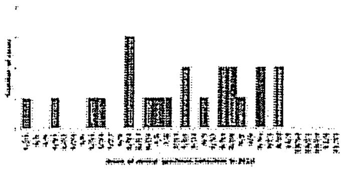
Latest Epi Curve



(/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/epi.html)

Click graph to view updated & previous epi curve graphs. (/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/epi.html)

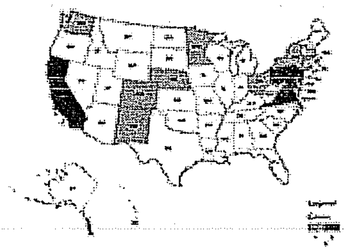
Product Information

Frescolina
Ricotta Salata

(/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/advice-consumers.html)

Imported Frescolina Marte Brand Ricotta Salata Cheese (/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/advice-consumers.html)

Latest Case Count Map



(/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/map.html)

Click map to view updated & previous case count maps. (/listeria/outbreaks/cheese-09-12/map.html)

Outbreak Summary ⇓ (#highlights)

Progression of the Outbreak Investigation ⇓ (#t)

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Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases (DFWED)